

Message Text

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41

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 NSC-05 A-01

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R 031232Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8943

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 0026

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP AFSP FG GR LE

SUBJECT: REGIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

REF: STATE 1356

1. I AM OPPOSED TO RTDO RELOCATING TO CAIRO, BUT
WILL OF COURSE BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS MATTER WHEN IN
WASHINGTON.

2. I HAVE CONSTANTLY SOUGHT TO KEEP THIS EMBASSY LEAN,
EFFICIENT AND TOTALLY ORIENTED TO OUR MISSION IN EGYPT.
MY STAFF IS OVERSTRETCHED, OVERWORKED AND FATIGUED, BUT UNITED BY A
STRONG SENSE OF COMMON MISSION. I HAVE TURNED DOWN
REPEATED REQUESTS TO HAVE REGIONAL OFFICERS ASSIGNED HERE
BECAUSE THEY CONTRIBUTE NOTHING OR ONLY marginally TO MY
MISSION.

3. I BELIEVE STRONGLY IN THE NEED TO PROMOTE AMERICAN
COMMERCE IN EGYPT BUT AM FULLY PERSUADED THAT
THIS CAN BE DONE THROUGH OUR ORGANIC COMMERCIAL STAFF.
I QUESTION WHETHER RTDO LOCATED IN CAIRO WOULD BE OF
ANY SIGNIFICANT SERVICE TO US THAT IS NOT ALREADY
BEING DONE BY MY STAFF.

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4. IT IS NOT TRUE THAT MOVE TO CAIRO WOULD IMPOSE

ONLY MINIMAL ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS. I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE THAT SUPPORT OF REGIONAL PERSONNEL, WHO ARE CONSTATNLY FLITTING HITHER AND YON, REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE BACKSTOPPING. IN FACT THEY REQUIRE FAR MORE SERVICES THAN DO RESIDENT PERSONNEL.

5. AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION TO ME IS THAT, IF I TAKE THE RTDO REGIONAL OFFICER, THE ENTIRE JUSTIFICATION FOR KEEPING OUT REGIONAL PEOPLE IS UNDERMINED. THEY WILL THEN CLAMOR TO COME IN IN DROVES. THERE ARE MANY REGIONAL OFFICERS WHO IN FACT HAVE A FAR GREATER JUSTIFICATION TO BE IN CAIRO THAN DOES RDTO OFFICE. INEVITABLE RESULT WILL BE RAPID EXPANSION OF THIS EMBASSY INTO A REGIONAL CENTER WITH ALL THE ADDITIONAL STAFF THAT IT ENTAILS. THIS WILL RAISE OUR PROFILE IN EGYPT TO AN UNDESIRABLE EXTENT.

6. I SEE NO REASON WHY RTDO CANNOT CONTINUE TO BE LOCATED IN ATHENS, WHERE A) ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES ARE MORE READILY AVAILABLE THAN THEY ARE IN OVERCROWDED CAIRO; B) AIR COMMUNICATIONS ARE BETTER THAN THOSE OUT OF CAIRO C) REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS ARE BETTER THAN IN CAIRO, AND D) A POST ALREADY EXISTS WHICH IS SUFFICIENTLY WELL-STAFFED TO SERVICE SUCH REGIONAL PEOPLE.
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